

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-10 SEC-01 AID-05

TRSE-00 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9732

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1432

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, HO

SUBJECT: PRESS AND LABOR UNION REACTIONS TO UB REVELATIONS

1. TIEMPO OF APRIL 11 DEVOTED MOST OF ITS FIRST PAGE TO THE UB STORY, CARRYING PHOTOS OF THE GOH STUDY COMMISSION AND ELI BLACK. ITS INSIDE PAGES CARRIED TWO ARTICLES ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION AND THE LEAD EDITORIAL WAS ENTITLED, "UNITED BRANDS, THE GOVERNMENT AND AN ACCUSATION."

2. THE TIEMPO EDITORIAL SAID THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE THE CHARGES MADE IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL BUT THAT THE STORIES THEMSELVES COULD NOT ESTABLISH GUILT. THE PAPER CONCLUDED THAT THE PROPER COURSE HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE FORMATION OF AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE TO ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH.

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3. TIEMPO ALSO SAID, "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS CORRUPT" AND SUPPORTED THAT STATEMENT BY QUOTING THE TEXT OF A LETTER WRITTEN IN 1920 BY UNITED FRUIT EXECUTIVE H.V. ROLSTON WHICH DETAILS HOW THE COMPANY USED BRIBES TO ACHIEVE FAVORED TREATMENT. TIEMPO'S EDITORIAL WAS CONCLUDED BY A COMMENT ON THE DUPLICITY OF THOSE WHO COULD ACCEPT A SALARY TO WORK FOR THE NATION WHILE TAKING BRIBES TO USE THEIR GOVERNMENTAL DECISION-MAKING POWERS AGAINST THE NATIONAL INTEREST. THE PAPER URGED THE USG TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMISSION IN ITS SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH AND DEMANDED STRONG LEGAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE GUILTY.

4. RADIO AMERICA TODAY BROADCAST A DECLARATION BY SUTRAFSCO, THE UNION OF STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY WORKERS. ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION THE BRIBERY SCANDAL REPRESENTS JUST ONE MORE IN A LONG LINE OF ACTS OF INTERVENTION BY THE FRUIT COMPANIES IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THE UNION, ACCORDING TO RADIO AMERICA, BELIEVES THAT EVENTS ARE MOTIVATED BY POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC SET-BACKS SUFFERED BY THE USG IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE UNION THESIS IS THAT UB MADE FALSE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST LOPEZ IN ORDER TO DIVIDE THE MILITARY AND ALLOW ONE GROUP TO UNITE WITH AMERICAN CAPITAL TO ESTABLISH A REGIME ACCEPTABLE TO THE US. THE ACTION BY UB IS AN ACT OF ECONOMIC AGGRESSION AIMED AT CURBING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT. THE PROCLAMATION CALLED FOR THE FORMATION OF A UNITED FRONT OF POPULAR FORCES TO DEFEND NATIONAL DIGNITY AGAINST AMERICAN CAPITAL AND THE FRUIT COMPANIES.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN NO THREATS OR ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS OR PROPERTY.
SANCHEZ

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